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R065

R 111593Z CZCCYNHYD

AM-COUP-DACKO 3 BANGUI

FRENCH TROOPS WERE BEING DEPLOYED TODAY THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC AFTER BACKING LAST WEEK'S BLOODLESS COUP.

MILITARY SOURCES SAID FRENCH UNITS PATROLLING THE CAPITAL WERE BEING REDUCED AND LIGHT ARMORED UNITS WERE BEING MOVED TO SEVERAL TOWNS IN THE INTERIOR.

THE SOURCES SAID ABOUT 800 FRENCH PARATROOPERS AND MARINE COMMANDOS WERE FLOWN INTO THE COUNTRY FOR THE COUP THAT ENDED THE 14-YEAR RULE OF BOKASSA, WHO WENT YESTERDAY INTO EXILE IN THE IVORY COAST.

LIFE WAS RETURNING TO NORMAL IN BANGUI, WHERE TROOPS CLEARED THE DEBRIS OF LOOTING THAT EMPTIED THE SHOPS THE DAY OF THE COUP.

PRESIDENT DACKO TODAY TOOK STOCK OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT. HE TOLD JOURNALISTS THE REPUBLIC WAS BANKRUPT AND THERE WERE MASSES OF UNEXPLAINED DEBTS.

(MEANWHILE, IN PARIS TODAY INFORMED SOURCES SAID FRENCH TROOPS DEPLOYED IN THE REPUBLIC AFTER THE COUP FOUND ABOUT 200 LIBYAN ADVISERS IN THE NEAR-BANKRUPT COUNTRY.)

MORE 1529

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLS DATE 10/27/82
RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. A-OR( )
ENDORSE EXISTING RDS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ EXEMPTABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R066

R 111639Z CZCCYNCYH

AM-COUP-DACKO 4 BANGUI

IN EXPLAINING TODAY TO REPORTERS WHY SOME OF YESTERDAY'S COMMENTS WERE NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, INCLUDING THE DEATH SENTENCE ON BOKASSA ANNOUNCED ON STATE RADIO, MR DACKO SAID:

"WE NEED TO HAVE RELAXATION. THE SOUTH AFRICAN THING WAS A JOKE. I AM SERIOUS. IT WAS A JOKE. I AM NOT GOING TO OPEN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA."

REUTER 1530